

PERSISTENCE



To Graduation

Monthly E-news from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success



October is Dropout Prevention Month! Are You Using Early Warning Yet?

The entire month of October is dedicated to calling attention to the need for dropout prevention efforts nationwide. Since 1986, graduation rates have improved across the country, and Kentucky is celebrated as a top graduation state with a current graduation rate of 90.6%, but there is much work left to do. The last count of students identified as having dropped out in Kentucky was 4,350 (2017-18). **Do you know where to find your school or district's dropout data** (including a 5 year trend, 7th - 12th grade counts/percentages, and different student group rates)? Go to [KDE Supplemental Data](#) Learning Environment tab.

Are you using a tool to identify students at risk of dropping out? The Early Warning tool is interactive and provides a GRAD score for every student in grades 6-12. This tool also identifies which area (i.e., attendance, behavior, curriculum, stability) of intervention will yield the greatest impact for supporting persistence towards graduation. The IC pathway is: Student Information→Counseling→Early Warning. You can watch this [10 minute overview](#) of the video and read the [detailed documentation for guidance](#) on using the tool.

Finally, you can read a recent op-ed titled [“33 years of Dropout Prevention – Have We Been Barking Up the Wrong Tree?”](#), find effective strategies, dropout prevention month posters, and learn more about Dropout Prevention strategies from the [National Dropout Prevention Center](#). You can also check out the What Works Clearinghouse [Practice Guide on Preventing Dropout in Secondary Schools](#).

Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs

Making Schools a Truly Safe Place: The [latest issue of Educational Leadership](#) explores ways to cultivate both physical and emotional safety by offering ideas and strategies that help students and teachers.

State of Student Social and Emotional Competence: A new report, [Student Social and Emotional Competence Assessment: The Current State of the Field and a Vision for Its Future](#), was developed by the Assessment Work Group, a group of scholars, test developers, and educators focused on supporting high-quality social and emotional competence assessment.

October Happiness Calendar: The [Greater Good Magazine](#) provides science-based insights for a meaningful life. Here is their [October happiness calendar](#).

Free Apps for Wellbeing: The [Headspace App](#) and the [Calm App](#) is also offering free educator [subscriptions](#)! If you're looking for something slightly different, the [Insight Timer App](#) is also always free for everyone. All three of these have hundreds of free guided meditations, ambient

sounds, and tools to help you build mindfulness practice into your daily life. Check them out and share them with your fellow educators!

Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) Fact Sheet Series: The Northwest and Pacific Southwest Mental Health Technology Center Transfer Network developed three fact sheets: [ISF 101 Introduction](#), [School Mental Health and MTSS](#), and [Installing an Integrated Approach](#).

National Council for Behavioral Health Report on Mass Violence: It's time to tune out the noise and listen to the science. Learn about the complex causes and effective interventions from the Medical Director Institute's (MDI) landmark report, "[Mass Violence in America: Causes, Impacts and Solutions](#)," a reasoned, evidence-based and actionable examination of mass violence.

Learning Brain vs. Survival Brain: Watch this [brief video](#) designed to explain the difference to teachers between the brain functions of people who are in learning vs. survival mode.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Webinars

Changing from At-Risk to At-Promise: The Reaching At-Promise Students Association (RAPSA) will provide a webinar on October 16 at 4:00 (ET) to share strategies for empowering students and addressing challenges outside of the classroom. You can [register](#) and also [watch previous webinars](#).

Online Mindful Education Summit: [Mindful.org](#) and [Mindfulschools.org](#) have partnered to create a free online Mindful Education Summit October 16-20 to serve as a resource to teachers, parents, administrators, therapists, and anyone interested in bringing mindfulness to children and youth. [Learn more and sign up here](#).

Interconnected Systems Framework – An Introduction: On Thursday, October 22 from 6:00-7:00 pm (ET) Susan Barrett will discuss how the interconnected systems framework (ISF) promotes a single system of delivery for educational and mental health supports in schools. You can [register here](#).

KDE's Virtual Workshops: The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will host two upcoming workshops:

(1) "Mock PLCs – Breaking Down a Standard," Oct. 24, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. ET: A mock professional learning community (PLC) will be conducted in order to take a closer look at PLCs in action breaking down a standard to gain teacher clarity. Use these links to access either the [4 p.m. session](#) or the [5 p.m. session](#).

(2) "Using the Social Studies Alignment Tool," Nov. 21, 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. ET: Participants will practice using the alignment tools for the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies* with guidance from KDE content consultants. Use these links to access either the [4 p.m. session](#) or the [5 p.m. session](#).

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts: *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new [Solutions to the Dropout Crisis](#), where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

Conferences and Activities

Social Emotional Preparation for Postsecondary Transitions Workshop: As part of the *Building Bridges to College and Career* professional learning series from REL Appalachia this workshop is about a school's role in developing self-efficacy and growth mindset while gaining a clearer understanding of the link between postsecondary transitions and social emotional skills. EILA credit is available for participation in this event. This workshop will be held October 23 from 9:00-12:00 (ET) at Eastern Kentucky University. You can [register here](#). For more information, please contact Jennifer Wotring at jwotring@edvgroup.org.

College Board for Advanced Placement Workshop: Join the College Board for an Advanced Placement (AP) professional development workshop 8 a.m.-3 p.m. ET **Nov. 5** at Frederick Douglass High School in Lexington. Attendees will experience a collaborative learning environment with subject-specific support and training in Art and Design, U.S. Government and Politics, Human Geography and Psychology. AP resources that will be highlighted include unit guides, personal progress checks, the AP Teacher Community and AP Question Bank. The deadline for early registration is Oct. 15. Go to the [College Board's website](#) to register.

Teaching American History: The American Founding: This free seminar on November 8 (9am-3pm) offers an overview of the principles of the American Founding and the documents that embody them, especially the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. These principles will be illuminated through a close study of the events of the American Revolution and the debates on the ratification of the Constitution. Dr. Jason Stevens, Professor of Political Science at Ashland University, will lead the seminar. Grades 6-12. Five hours PD credit. [Learn more and register](#).

Kentucky Counseling Association: The Kentucky Counseling Association Conference will be held on November 13-15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville, KY. The conference theme is Celebrating Human Resiliency. In addition to breakout sessions, there will be 3 hour and 6 hour workshops offered. For information and registration please visit the [KCA conference page](#).

Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS): The [KAPS Fall conference](#) will be held November 13-15. Registration will be open soon.

KDE Evaluation Training for Administrators: The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is the official provider for the 2019-2020 Initial Certified Evaluation Training for administrators newly assigned to the role of evaluator of certified personnel. The two-day training, including the assessment, is required per KRS 156.557 and 704 KAR 3:370. All new evaluators of certified personnel are required to attend. Visit the [Principal Partnership Project website](#) for information about dates and locations, and to register.

Thank you for all you do!

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov. Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the [Persistence to Graduation listserv](#) (right click to subscribe)